

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 RSR-01 L-03 H-03

/180 W

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R 141704Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3318

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 9346

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: UK REACTION TO CHIRAC'S LE POINT INTERVIEW

REF: BONN 11531 (NOTAL)

1. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET MADE AN OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE LATEST OUTBURST BY FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER CHIRAC AGAINST THE UK, GERMANY AND THE EC COMMISSION WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LATEST ISSUE OF THE FRENCH WEEKLY LE POINT. WE

UNDERSTAND THAT LE POINT WILL PUBLISH A REPLY BY BRITISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE JOSPEH GODBER IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

2. IN AN EDITORIAL ON AUGUST 13, THE "FINANCIAL TIMES" SAID THAT CHIRAC'S LINE WAS "CRUDELY NATIONALISTIC." HIS LE POINT INTERVIEW SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A WARNING THAT FRANCE INTENDS TO FIGHT HARD TO DEFEND THE ADVANTAGES IT HAS GAINED FROM THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. "THE PLAIN FACT OF THE MATTER," ACCORDING TO THE FT, "IS THAT THE CAP HAS OVERWHELMINGLY SERVED FRENCH INTERESTS FOR OVER A DECADE, AND IT IS STILL THE COMMUNITY'S ONLY MAJOR POLICY. THIS SITUATION CANNOT CONTINUE FOR VERY MUCH LONGER. IN FUTURE IT MUST BE MADE LESS BURDENSOME TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WHETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY, AND AT THE SAME TIME THE FRENCH MUST AGREE TO OTHER POLICIES WHICH WILL RESTORE THE BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES."

3. IN AN EDITORIAL ON AUGUST 14, "THE TIMES" SAID THAT CHIRAC IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SURVIVAL OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. HIS "WILDER PROTESTS ONLY DO HARM TO THE FRENCH CAUSE IN BRUSSELS," HOWEVER. THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY IS INEFFICIENT AND NEEDS TO BE REFORMED. A MOVE AWAY FROM PRICE SUPPORTS TOWARD DIRECT SUBSIDIES, "THE TIMES" SAID, WOULD BENEFIT CONSUMERS AND SMALL FARMERS IN FRANCE AS WELL AS IN OTHER MEMBER STATES. "IT IS OVERSIMPLIFYING THE MATTER TO SUPPOSE THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF PRICE SUPPORTS IF AUTOMATICALLY IN THE FRENCH INTEREST."
SOHM

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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